

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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29 SEP 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Communications, DDA
VIA: Director of Data Processing, DDA
FROM: Chief, Information Services Staff, DDO
SUBJECT: Requirement for CDS Data Link with ODP
Special Center

25X1

1. With the advent of the Cable Dissemination System (CDS), the DO will be able for the first time to capture and store its electrical traffic in digital form. This represents an accomplishment of major proportions. It greatly facilitates the automated storage and retrieval of the transmitted messages and the processing of the information contained within them. It permits the automation of many processes now performed manually, including a major keying effort. It reflects a significant step forward in our ability to support the users of the DO records system in the field and at Headquarters. The support of the Office of Communications in this effort is greatly appreciated.

2. After CDS is fully operational, however, we would like your assistance in providing a second high speed data link from the system. This data link would connect the CDS with the ODP Special Center in Room GC-47 where the ADP facilities supporting the DO are located. DO traffic is currently being sent to the Ruffing Center in Room GC-03 via the only high speed CDS data link available. This traffic, mixed with all other Agency traffic on the data link, must be extracted from the message stream and spooled to a dedicated disk file. Periodically, the DO messages are written to tape. The tapes are then hand-carried to the Special Center where the data is entered into the newly developed DO software system known as COMET (Collection of Operational Messages Electrically Transmitted).

3. There are many benefits attendant to the direct routing of DO electrical traffic from CDS to the Special Center. The most important of these are outlined below.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L E2 IMPDET

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- The timeliness and efficiency of handling the DO electrical traffic would be enhanced, because a dedicated DO data link would eliminate the need to manually transport the magnetic tapes from one computer center to the other to be run as a batch job.
- The accuracy of the digitally stored electrical traffic would be improved because a DO data link would preclude the need to process the cable traffic in both centers, and eliminate the writing and reading of tapes that process requires. This reduction in the number of processing steps would result in a comparable reduction in the number of processing errors.
- The security of the DO electrical traffic would be enhanced because an exclusive DO data link would terminate the introduction of this traffic into a multi-computer environment serving hundreds of non-DO users. Although the DO is willing to accept that risk for the short term in exchange for the early capability to process its cable traffic digitally, prudence dictates that the risk be removed as soon as practical rather than continuing over the long term. Also, current DO planning envisions that cable traffic of considerably higher sensitivity will be included in the CDS stream in the future. With a dedicated data link the DO can ensure the security compartmentation required to protect that traffic which contains information concerning sources and methods.

4. Your support of this request will be greatly appreciated, as it will result in a valuable improvement in our ability to provide automated support to the many users of the DO records system. OC analysts may contact [redacted], extensions [redacted] for detailed information concerning installation requirements.

/s/ William F. Donnelly

William F. Donnelly

CONCU [redacted]

Director of [redacted] Processing, DDA

Date

17 OCT 1977

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Mr. May:

17 Oct. 1977

I hope your indigestion is better, because after I talked with [] on Friday last, I am strongly convinced this action should be approved. There are four prime reasons for approval:

- 1) It is more efficient in terms of processing cable traffic — gets messages to ultimate destination without redundant processing.
- 2) It gives DD/O a warm, secure feeling — by cutting down the number of people & processes involved in message traffic, it might be statistically more secure.
- 3) If we are ultimately to achieve flexibility/back-up in CDS processing, this installation is a mandatory step. Whether we fight the battle ~~over~~ over the link-up of GC-03-GC-47 is not at issue now — in any case, this action must be taken to achieve the flexibility/back-up goal. The fact that DD/O initiated it is a plus — they are giving us ammo for later use.
- 4) DD/O will receive only DD/O messages in GC-47. GC-03 will receive all other appropriate CDS messages. This means there will be no duplicate processing and adds to both reasons 1 & 2.

I think you should concur. The answer to your question of para. 2 (see your comments) is covered, I think, by reason 2. The question of software price & scope must be defended by DD/O — they will have to do it.

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1. This gives me a mild case of indigestion -
2. If the DO traffic flows through the OC staff Commo net and within MAX and CDS mixed with other agency traffic; why does a dedicated link from CDS to GC-47 offer any greater protection of sensitive DO traffic? Is OC ~~not~~ infallible? Why shouldn't I question taking the action Connolly proposes until we have solved the problem and priced it out. Why ~~can~~ is it OK to have a link from CDS to GC-47 and not OK to have a link from GC-03 to GC-47? Bull Sh--

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ODP STAFF SUMMARY SHEET

SUBJECT: Approved For Release 2005/07/14 : CIA-RDP84-00933R000200210006-3

Requirement for CDS Data Link with ODP Special Center (GC-47)

PURPOSE OF ACTION:

Concur in commo reqmt. for Special Center (GC-47)

ACTION OFFICER (Incl. Ext.)

REFERENCES:

RESOURCE PACKAGE & COSTS (If applicable):

This paper is for your:

Component/ Officer	Information/ Comment	Concurrence	Approval/ Signature	Initials	Date
C/MS	X			EB	12 Oct.
EXO	X	Boo! How!		OD	12 Oct
D/ODP		X			

DISCUSSION:

No technical objections.

Would like to have one set of commo protocols, but that is DD/O/Commo problem.

See note. "No problem".

ODP role will be to implement HASP interface and provide ISS with message processor as used in GC-03. ISS will assume the programming burden - however, no one has scoped this project for the required resources.

[] of OC has "informally" seen this and expects to be able to install ~~some~~ sometime in April/May, 1978. Have called [] of DD/O and he says DD/O has no time definition of "short term". DD/O will accept some delay. Requirement satisfaction would be of benefit to the DD/O, as stated. The software required is not trivial, unless they adopt existing ODP software. (para 3 last).

Recommend signature.

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Signature of Action Officer

10/12/77
Date

Add To Official File Yes ☒ No ☐

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Unclassified

Confidential

Secret

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I have no problem with
the link. There either
is or is not a security
problem with traffic in
the Ruffing Center. How
can DD accept a temporary
security problem with traffic
in the Ruffing Center?

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